

What is claimed is:

1. A microstructured separating device for separating liquid components from a particle-containing liquid, comprising the following:

- at least one transport channel for transport of the liquid in a given transport direction;
- at least one separating area at a branch point of the transport channel which is adjoined by a side channel through which a partial flow of the liquid from the transport channel is diverted; and
- a microstructure in the at least one separating area which keeps larger particles of the liquid out of the separating area and which slows down the transport of smaller particles in the separating area.

2. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microstructures border one or more passage openings.

3. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the passage openings have a height which is less than the height of the transport channel.

4. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the height of the passage openings is 0.5 to 1000 microns.

5. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the passage openings are located entirely or partially next to one another.

6. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the passage openings are located entirely or partially in succession in the transport direction.

7. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the width of the passage openings decreases in the transport direction.

8. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the height of

the passage openings decreases in the transport direction.

9. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the separating area has one or more microstructures.

10. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microstructure is a ramp.

11. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microstructure is stairs.

12. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microstructure comprises columns which are spaced apart from one another.

13. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microstructure comprises one or more crosspieces.

14. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a collecting element adjoins the separating area in the transport direction.

15. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the collecting element is made as a collecting chamber.

16. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the collecting element contains reagents.

17. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 14, wherein a removal and/or vent channel adjoins the collecting element.

18. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 18, wherein a removal and/or vent channel adjoins the separating area.

19. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the separating device has an inlet.

20. The microstructured separating device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the separating

device has an outlet which adjoins the end of the transport channel in the transport direction.

21. A microfluidic process for separating liquid components from a particle-containing liquid, characterized by the following:

- the liquid is transported in a transport channel;
- part of the liquid is branched off out of the transport channel via the separating area;
- larger particles being retained upon entry into the separating area and being washed away from the liquid flowing in the transport channel and
- smaller particles being slowed down upon entry into the separating area or during transport into the separating area.